AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A carrier for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection, comprising

a) at least one immobilized cardiolipin and

b) at least one immobilized Treponema-specific antigen.

2. (Currently amended) The carrier according to 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin is present together with lecithin and cholesterol as Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL) antigen~~, said products being preferably present in a mass ratio of cardiolipin : lecithin : cholesterol of 0.1-4.0 : 1-5.0 : 1-10~~.

3. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin is present in at least two, ~~preferably at least three, particularly preferably at least four~~ different concentrations at different positions of the carrier.

4. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that at least two~~, preferably at least three, particularly preferably at least four~~ different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

5. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the at least one Treponema-specific antigens ~~are~~ is selected from Treponema pallidum-specific antigens~~, preferably the 15 kD, 17 kD, 44.5 kD and 47 kD antigen~~.

6. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier further comprises ~~further~~ controls.

7. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises ~~one control is~~ a serum control~~, preferably protein A~~.

8. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier comprises ~~one control is~~ a cut-off control~~, preferably comprising purified human immunoglobulin~~.

9. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that ~~it~~ the carrier comprises a serum control ~~which preferably comprises protein A~~ and a cut-off control ~~which preferably comprises human immunoglobulin~~.

10. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier ~~is~~ comprises a material selected from the group consisting of nitrocellulose, PVDF (polyvinylidene difluoride), nylon, cellulose acetate, and polystyrene, wherein the at least one immobilized cardiolipin and at least one immobilized Treponema-specific antigen are immobilized on the material.

11. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is ~~designed as~~ a test strip for use in immunodiagnostics.

12. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim 1, characterized in that the carrier is ~~designed as~~ an immunoblot.

13. (Currently amended) The carrier according to claim [[1]]2, characterized in that the VDRL antigen ~~bands~~ applied to the carrier allows a differentiation between anti-VDRL-IgG and anti-VDRL-IgM antibodies after reaction with a patient's sample~~, preferably selected from blood, serum, plasma, liquor or synovial fluid~~.

14. (Withdrawn – Currently amended) A method for diagnosis and/or follow-up of a Treponema infection comprising:

~~characterized in that~~ contacting a carrier according to claim 1 ~~is contacted~~ with a patient's sample and

determining the presence of antibodies against a Treponema antigen and/or a cardiolipin on the test strip ~~is determined~~.

15. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The method according to claim 14, comprising determining ~~characterized in that~~ the reactivity of antibodies from a patient's serum with the cardiolipin of the test strip ~~is determined~~ several times over a prolonged period of time.

16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the patient's sample is blood, serum, plasma, liquor or synovial fluid.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, characterized in that the assessment is performed through the evaluation software ViraScan®.

18. (Withdrawn -- Currently amended) The method according to claim 14, further comprising differentiating ~~characterized in that~~ anti-VDRL-IgG and anti-VDRL-IgM antibodies ~~are differentiated~~ in a patient's sample.

19. (Currently amended) A test kit for the diagnosis of a Treponema infection and/or the follow-up of a Treponema infection, comprising a carrier according to claim 1 and further reagents as well as an instruction manual for ~~carrying out the detection method~~ using the carrier.

20. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing or following-up a Treponema infection in a patient comprising:

contacting a sample from a patient with a carrier according to claim 1 and

measuring antibodies from the sample bound to the carrier.

21. (New) The carrier according to 1, characterized in that the cardiolipin : lecithin : cholesterol is present in a mass ratio of 0.1-4.0 : 1-5.0 : 1-10.

22. (New) The carrier according to claim 3, wherein the cardiolipin is present in at least three different concentrations, at different positions of the carrier.

23. (New) The carrier according to claim 3, wherein the cardiolipin is present in at least four different concentrations, at different positions of the carrier.

24. (New) The carrier according to claim 4, wherein at least three different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

25. (New) The carrier according to claim 4, wherein at least four different Treponema antigens are present in different positions on the carrier.

26. (New) The carrier according to claim 5, wherein the at least one Treponema pallidum-specific antigen are selected from the group consisting of the 15 kD, 17 kD, 44.5 kD and 47 kD antigens.

27. (New) The carrier according to claim 7, wherein the serum control comprises protein A.

28. (New) The carrier according to claim 8, wherein the cut-off control comprises purified human immunoglobulin.

29. (New) The carrier according to claim 9, wherein the serum control comprises protein A, and the cut-off control comprises human immunoglobulin.

30. (New) The carrier according to claim 13, wherein the patient's sample is selected from the group consisting of blood, serum, plasma, liquor, and synovial fluid.